

Speer's

▲ SUSTAINING PROGRAM ▲

SPRING/47



See you at summer's end in Philadelphia

CESI ET CELA

There being slightly less pressure of material on this issue, i've taken the opportunity to allow somewhat more generous, and therefore better balanced, margins at side and bottom. I've also decided that with elite type the paragraph indentation should be ten spaces rather than five; but some features were typed or started before i arrived at this earth-shaking conclusion, so the practice in this issue will not be found uniform. Also, as of 1 April or thereabouts, i've determined upon a few other changes in the style sheet which aren't necessarily reflected herein--as dropping the capitalization of generic nouns accompanied by a proper noun: Sixth ave, King county, &c. The editor is still named Jack Speer, and holds forth at 4518 16th NE, Seattle 5 Wn.

What depression?

REMARKS ON THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MAILING
(Reviews of)

Pp 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

RED HARANGUE

P 6

The title was originally an interlineation, but i needed a short titled article so most of a page could be devoted to other interlineations and miscellaneous paragraphs.

REJECTED--EMBER.

P 7

I must be slipping when i have to use material like this.

MAN SAGT

Pp 8, 9, 10, 11

I really shouldn't reproduce friends' obvious typographical errors here, but it seemed desirable in some cases so the policy was continued thruout.

PRAGMATIC BASIS FOR SUPERIORITY OF SCIENCE-FICTION TO PULP FANTASY

P 12

It's surprisingly difficult to be perfectly on the beam in choosing words and examples to express your idea.

QUOTES GRATIA ARTIS

P 13

The only justification for this grotesq title is to balance a page we had once headed "Ars Quoteworthy".

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

P 14

With an interlineation identifying the cover.

LAST STOP TO LIMBO

P 15

Do you yawn at this department too, Chan?

KEEPING UP WITH CAMPBELL

Pp 16, 17, 18,
and below

Five months a quarter is pretty good.

(Continued from the end.) It looks like Astounding is having pulp troubles; not only is there none of the semislick paper herein that April had, but we notice the rotogravures are missing.... Tiedeman's illustrations for E for Effort 37.4/61. were good, but i would have liked to have a picture to help me visualize the way the invention worked; perhaps he lacks the imagination necessary to a real s-f artist. ' I liked the story very much. How do you think the good 'uns should have used their advantage, to avoid the unhappy outcome that the ending apparently implies? One way, it seems to me, is to fall back on the whole people (a reliance on them seems to run thru many strong systems of active principles, as Jefferson's and Jesus's). By this i mean sharing the whole secret with them when the time came to drop pretences: have readied for distribution broadcast in many languages, plans for building duplicates of the machine, and trust that what is made public cannot be disastrously misused.

REMARKS ON THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MAILING

It is a beautiful evening, calm and free; this one is not likely to produce any debates with quietists or a Third Dissertation on Discipline. But it is the sixteenth of April, and high time we were filling in the gaps in this issue of SF if it's to go in the mailing however late. So we flog ourselves away from the balcony and take up the contents of the winter envelope.

Sustaining Program: Shows some danger of carrying too much commentary material, which I'm not yet sure I can avoid.

Matters of Opinion: This particular issue, by contrast, contains little of the usual sort of comments upon remarks.

Ingenious and effective cover on Moonshine. "What are we to make of the advertisement? Is there such a product?" "I think I first saw the Punny Poetry quatrain in the Rexall Magazine twenty years or so ago. (Jerusalem, how old that makes me sound!)" "I can only conjecture how Len misunderstood my question, but I repeat it: Why do you think the Bible tells the truth?" "As for Christianity being the 'opposite' of selfishness, I refer to 'Opposite Ar a lot Alike' in a past Mopsy for a caveat on opposites. I would agree that Jesus's teachings very generally negative selfishness; in one or two cases perhaps too much. But I question that selfishness is the cause of all the world's ills. May be you can find selfishness a 'but for' in any ill, but that may be merely another demonstration that given one premise contrary to fact you can prove any other statement which is contrary to fact. (1+1=5; therefore I am the Pope.) The practical question is, on which aspects of contemporary life should you direct your fire to have the best chance of improving the future; and I think ignorance may be more strategic for that than selfishness." "Woolston has a point in the difficulty of personalizing the A-bomb. Several cartoons in or by the Christian Science Monitor depict it in as many different ways; so it remains a half-understood, unsubstantial threat, the innocuous-looking sketch of a nucleus with planetary electrons being perhaps the most easily recognizable symbol." "There is a practical difference in rocket bombs and military germs as weapons of war --- on reconsideration I decide it doesn't stand up and drop it." "There are two egregious examples of bad article writing in Woolston's piece. One is the conclusion to part I: 'To sum it up: no one knows.' That's not a summing up at all. It's just an expression of Woolston's affective state at the time he stopped writing part I. The conclusion to part II is more explicit, but equally worthless: 'Taking everything into consideration there may be only one answer to A-power control or a germ menace. It is to know the answer of how the tight-rope walker manipulates himself without a fatal misstep. For the whole of Mankind is in the position of walking a narrow rope over a gulf that might include race-destruction.'" "If The Leaf were by a sterner, I might criticize the meter. Instead I will just question the accuracy of the statement that 'Each year they are wearing their dresses more daring'. Has VEJ never seen the change in styles from the 1920s to the 1930s, nor Life's recent spring-style issue?" "I can't tell what you want us to 'solve' in the story Waiting. But I suppose asking the precise question would be most of the job of answering it."

Eight Pages: "Through the vast hollows of the darkened air" reminds me of Milton's "To bellow through the vast and boundless deep". My reaction to the Elegy for Earth coincides with yours. In Orion, it seems to me there should have been a change of meter at "Then swing your club until it smashes down". I wonder if "the awe one feels in gazing deeply up into the night sky" was inherent in the old stories, or merely in our condition at the time. I find no

trace of it in rereading parts of the #1 SWS I recently got from Brazier. " And now to advert to your mention of the purely literary. What do you mean by "purely literary", Sam? I think it likely that I'm missing considerable by being primarily interested in the ideas in stef stories, but how can the enjoyment you have in mind be communicated by commentary? Laddish ecstasies over fantasy books are not likely to make me enjoy them more; and it seems unlikely that you want book reviews which synopsis a plot and pass judgment on the book, with perhaps an unsuccessful attempt to communicate special affective characteristics of the style. When you get away from the ideas, plot, and mechanical innovations (comprehending in the latter term such tricks as having an obscene monstrosity felt before it is seen) of a story, aren't you in a field where you can say little more than "My reaction coincides with yours" or "It doesn't affect me that way"? That is the way musical discussions sound to me. " The Henry Miller excerpt begins with an obvious flaw: "An era of chaos and confusion, beginning in 1944, will continue until almost 1960." Hell, if what we had for some years before 1944 wasn't chaos and confusion, it would take a strained interpretation to make the last few years fit that description. You can, of course, set up your own unvoiced standards and maintain almost any assertion of this class (the isolated intellectual actually that there have been few fundamental changes in western civilization in the past few decades!), but unless the reader feels compelled to assent (as I do to Spengler), there is no arguing about it. At the top of p5 affective components seem to have crept in and misdirected Miller's possibly valuable intuitions. And about the time he begins saying "The consolidation of the new individuality, rooted in the collective" Miller is talking entirely to himself. " If it's not too late to take up the subject, I might express an opinion on Norm's parallel of religious and ideological wars. One difference betwixt the two is that the arguments over religion, except as they incidentally affected dynastic commitments (and even they had surprisingly little effect on the course of history) and more general theories (as of church government) which were applied to religious matters, actually had no bearing on the material welfare of human beings. Therefore we are justified in dismissing them as foolish. But, despite the considerable accretion of nonsense about the dialectic, etcetera, the wars of ideology are ultimately based on real needs. It is interesting to speculate on what conflicts may divide men when the present ones (or their present manifestations) are settled or disappear. Martley Grattan has pointed out that the literati who show mass interests long ahead of time seem to be turning to religion: Aldous Huxley goes Hindu, and Arthur Koestler has sent out a call for personal integrity that has an ivorytower ring quite foreign to the intelligentsia of the thirties. If as Russell suggests the major disputes of the future are over questions of philosophy and values, we may yet see the time when, as described in SF fillers, one can start a riot with a question of grammar, and men will duel over a metaphysical proposition. " The insularity of The Collapse of Homo Sapiens is amusing. I suppose it's to be expected that books written for Britishers should deal with familiar geography; but so often it never seems to occur to them to wonder what's happening beyond the seas; by contrast, even such a continental-minded story as An Enemy of Knowledge, by an American, mentions that there are other countries. " Russell nails down a good point in mentioning "a lack of understanding of the structure and dynamics of modern society typical of casual writers of twenty years ago." It's quite apparent in old stef prozines, and in RFM's reprints from that period.

Glem: Where'd the squarish stencils come from--Great Britain? " I can suggest a few features of the convention article which caused it to be rejected. One is exemplified in "and a beautiful pastel which fetched a high price".

That may be fully significant to you; it might even have some meaning for other stonists; but i can't imagine its making any semantic impression on an outsider. Identification of Davenport Russell as a "noted lecturer" probably looked like a weak attempt at pumping up the affair and our hobby. And we may understand why you identified Miss Tigrina as "in real life a secretary at a Hollywood commercial photography studio", but why should the general reader be interested? " Isn't "16 to 60" placing the lower age limit a little high? " I don't believe there's an s on the second F in NFFF. " The correct expression is "under way". " What's the derivation of "skilifesque"? " The Gazelle Boy story is rather generally discounted. What's this about supermice from Bikini? " What's "Vain" doing in the 11th line of the sonnet? " If RSRichardson would join the NFFF, i guess he might get sucked in on the US Rocket Socy too, but it seems a pity. " The past tense in French being so poor, i guess we can forgive Betty Browder for mixing present and preterit in the synopsis of L'Hallucinant Pouvoir.

One wonders how many of the misprints in Fantasy Amateur were unintentional. " Elmer's excuses in the 2d endorsement sound exceeding weak, as he virtually--i mean practically admits. " The count of contents of this mailing was made to look even smaller than it should have. The FA is not listed, and Forlo Kon only once, though the practice has been to list separate issues separately though included in the same mailing.

ATOTE: I read the funny story to the bitter end, Everett, but i had to take it in several small doses. The kindest comment i can make is that "Sibling" means "brother or sister", not "child". " Hum. Cogitation suggests that the word "pose" is justified if the pretence of equanimity and good will is maintained primarily to mislead others or seem to put them in the wrong; but is not justified if the pretence is maintained mostly for its hoped-for internal effect on Triple-E's spirit. It also would not be justified if the purpose were something Everett's article does not suggest, to wit, to increase the amount of sweetness and light in the world and decrease or avoid increasing the bitterness; but in this case i believe the method chosen would be less than ineffectual.

Forlo Kon for December presents an example of the hogwild-running that youths are likely to engage in upon first being injected with semantics. But the worst fault with the editorial on "Justice" is that Bonnell neglects to supply any demolition of the word before he says "Suppose that all of man's institutions based on the term 'justice' were to disappear." In case anyone wants to argue that the word is illusory, i offer this as a starter: The word "injustice" certainly represents something that we want to label from time to time, and "justice" is useful at least as an opposite for this. But it also has a positive meaning, which Plato described a Utopia to illustrate. As to Kenneth's statement toward the end of his editorial, that if there were no courts nor jails, there would be only a small rise in the crime rate, and soon thereafter everybody would be purified, i submit that the nearest thing we have to evidence on the point is all the other way. And don't forget, as laymen so often do, that punishment of crimes is only a small part of the work of courts of justice. " Do you have any ideas on a null-A chem set?

Forlo Kon for January was a big improvement for format. " Shanghaied has so many faults that a comprehensive criticism is out of the question, but a marginal mark leads me to note that the long description of the small bottle Jen used for safecracking is pointless, and suggests how far Weinstein is from the first essentials of writing for an audience. " To make a profound-counding comment on The Coming of K'halgus, the meltingdown of the universe into a flat plane looks like the triumph of the Russian worldview. Incidentally, are there any astronomers in Russia now? Spengler said it was impossible, because of the nature of the Russian soul. " My marginal comment on Song of the Space Men is "Oh golly". I'll leave it at that. " Every 100 years there is a cold wave?

This would be news to the expert on that subject in Climate and Man; he says there's no regular periodicity, and even the theory that climatic changes are the resultants of several out-of-phase independent factors has not been established. And I suspect that the assertion that there's a social revolution every 510 years is supportable only on such private criteria as Henry Miller employed.

Horizons is our next stop across the continent. Isn't anybody awake in the Mississippi valley? "The war's over, honeybun; and you can stop conditioning plans on conscription." "I'm not in favor of abolishing annual elections. If many people are, I'll go into the reasons." "One, One-Shot Fanzine was typed on the mastersets, in the stick." "We had no very comprehensive accounts of the Nycon and Chicon until long after the event. And just possibly there was less dirt to be plainspoken about in those affairs than in the Angel City affair. True, Tucker did hush up the antisemitic angle on the Chicon; but aside from a lot of illfounded boy-girl gossip there wasn't much there to stimulate swirks as there was at LA. And the chief dirt on the Nycon was thoroly aired from the moment it was over; I mean the Exclusion Act and aftertowing." "We have rugged constitutions, Harry; show us some sample press releases." "Then did "Hac iklakic" originally mean "The good of the whole", or is it another "Lo, the poor Indian" case?" "Gardner's last article is poorly done. Tis a lot of tag-ends of thote thrown together with no attempt at organization. If Amazing does outsell any other s-f pulp, which I have yet to have proved to me, it might be interesting to find out how they got during the war a paper allotment big enuf to allow them to run up such a record. Campbell says, with some plausibility, that Astounding's circulation is still held down by paper shortage. I can't agree that Amazing's cartoons are mostly clever. From my hurried glances at the magazine, it appears that the humor usually consists of taking some hoary humorous situation as between people and putting robots in place of the people. Rap's persistent reference to fan opposition in his editorials, when he might better keep his readers in ignorance thereof, is interesting. It suggests that he is deeply wounded by his failure to bring the fan in, and can't get us out of his mind. This theory receives some support from his recently published announcement that he's a fan again and wants to buy subscriptions to all the fanzines." "Harry's observations on the NFFF are of interest, but I'm talked out on the subject." "The article on the USRS seems to take a more valid approach than Rothman's, interpreting the club in terms of what it is or may be trying to be (probably Farnsworth has not clearly formulated it), a publicity organization, rather than a research society. However, I still incline to be against it." "There's nothing fantastic about sterility being inherited. I'm told that a question commonly asked of JAGs in the World War was "Is hereditary impotency a ground for divorce in your state?" The correct answer was "They don't marry mules in Oklahoma." "To return briefly to Palmer: I don't know anything about Geier as a fan except that he had one or two feeble articles in Stardust; I suspect that he has been bought. Hamling would appear to have been won over by similar methods, perhaps less economic than prestigious.

Since I'd already read World of T, and Milt and I were hashing over in correspondence the matters discussed under the General Semantics heading, and some of the miscellaneous material had already appeared in letters or elsewhere, this Plenum came perilously near being a total loss. But he did whip himself to turn out an issue when the deadline drew near, which puts him in line for a heaven that's closed to you slugs who lay down on the job. "The cover looks like something reticulated and decussated with interstices between the intersections, but I suspect it symbolizes some Hellenic metaphysical theory. I can't fathom the Psi." "Cops. About to forget something I wanted to comment

on but neglected to mark. The assertion that social justice demands that a human being be considered on his individual merits. This is expressed also by Richard L Evans in a recent Fictorial Review, who says: "Despite all our efforts to exterminate each other, there are still more than two billion people in the world. Obviously to consider each one of them as an individual, with his own character and characteristics, is a tremendous task. And so for convenience we classify man--as to names and nationalities, race and religion, color and creed, virtues and vices, financial ability and mental capacity, and many other attributes. But each man, individually, has a right to be considered on his own merits, and not to be lost in the 'lump.' Admittedly mankind is too numerous and complex to avoid some generalizations and broad classifications. But so often we do an individual an injustice (and do ourselves an injustice) in our assumption that because he has some characteristics of a group, he partakes of all the supposed characteristics of the group." Thus Evans clearly recognizes but persistently refuses to face the necessity for statistical thinking. If the demands of Rothman's social justice never collide with harsh necessity, it must be because it is never impractical to suspend judgment about an individual until we have probed his individual differences as well as classified him in several ways; and it is never necessary to treat large numbers of anonymous human beings as a mass.

Expose read and noted, and i suppose it told me some things about the conference that i didn't know before; but it can't hold a candle to Kennedy free style. " I'd make an interlineation of "O noble 26! O thoughtless 28!" but out of context nobody would dig it. " I didn't know you spoke Brooklynese, Joke. Since when do hallways "adjourn"?

Philadelphia in 1947!

Department of trivial corrections: 25 Aug 46 Stefnews says Warner and Chidsey had a ten-minute visit at the train. Instead, Jay was traveling by auto, with friends who honked for the latter part of the ten minutes.

Milwaukee in 1948!

Department of trivial corrections: Quote from 6 Aug card to Barbee: "You might footnote this: I've found my record of the attendance. 120 registered, of whom 16 were from non-LA California, and 17 from null-California USA." Others might not get identical results, owing to different ideas of what the LA area includes, or where some people should be counted as being from.

Frisco in 1949!

Sign in University Bookstore: FOR RENT
 ECONOMICS
 POLITICS
 WORLD AFFAIRS
 ATOM BOMBS
 With or without solutions

Comanche and Hagerstown in 1950!

"Monitor 1005-35, one of your neophytes enthusiastically reprinted an article from the Cosmic Circle Commentator. Unless a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming, you will be disciplined."

RED HARANGUE

After maturer deliberation, I think I can answer my own suggestions in favor of direct action made in last quarter's prozine review. The tripper, Mr Speer, is in the assumption that people interested in world government, public information, etc, would be the ones to resort to direct action, and not others. But you are addressing an audience which includes several Communists and a number of pro-capitalists, as well as quite a few whose opinions haven't jelled yet. Moreover, even if direct action should first be undertaken by correctly altruistic people, it would if successful be adopted by others. And here is the real joker: There is nothing in the nature of direct action (a euphemism for sabotage, assassination., in case you've gotten left) which makes it more susceptible of successful employment in the cause of democracy, enlightenment., than in opposing causes. Only open debate, followed by free vote of the whole people, gives some edge to the forces of advancement. Any process which bypasses that may have benevolent results, but is no more certain to than despotism.

Fanburg in 51

We are indebted to Kanews for swiping the following theater marquee combination, among others, from Tide and Magazine Digest:

One More Tomorrow... Bikini Bomb Scenes

Yukon in 52

You know, I never realized what an international movement FooFoolism was, till I came across numerous passages in the Quick Reader abridgment of Crime and Punishment (it's a crime, incidentally) like this: "'Foo!' she said, 'What a pig you are!'"

Venus in 59

Chafee, Freedom of Speech: "The true explanation is ... that profanity and indecent talk and pictures, which do not form an essential part of any exposition of ideas, have a very slight social value as a step toward truth, which is clearly outweighed by the social interest in order, morality, the training of the young, and the peace of mind of those who hear and see. Words of this type offer little opportunity for the usual process of counter-argument. The harm is done as soon as they are communicated, or is liable to follow almost immediately in the form of retaliatory violence. The only sound explanation of the punishment of obscenity and profanity is that the words are criminal, not because of the ideas they communicate, but like acts because of their immediate consequences to the five senses. The man who swears in a street car is as much of a nuisance as the man who smokes there. Insults are punished like a threatening gesture, since they are liable to provoke a fight. Adulterated candy is no more poisonous to children than some books."

1960 Milt didn't say

The heart of the gospel: "A wise man believes anything until it is disproved. Only a fool refuses to accept anything until it is demonstrated."
--Amazing Stories.

1961 also Comanche

Glancing at the map after the recent explosion/let near Dale Hart's old home (a catastrophe incidentally which left me unexcited despite three days of headlines), I noticed a Texas town named Daisetta. Could this have the same Spanish origin as Daisy Etta the Killdozer?

Is my compilation complete?

REJECTED--EMBER.

Aside from the low interest of such material, I always hesitate to publish as a fanzine's Rejected-- feature any mere correspondence written to the editor because of the chance that later I may send him a legitimate article and get it rejected which can then go here. However, when a fanzine has expired this reason is no longer present. So here, with no other excuse for this lengthy introduction than to excuse it, are excerpts from a letter to Brazier last November:

Milt mentions photos of molecules via the electron microscope. Many months ago Time published a photo of a molecule showing, if I'm not mistaken, the very atoms, as blobs, in their predicted arrangement....

Thanks a lot for the Laws of Matter Up-to-Date. While it wasn't what the title suggested, I found it a very valuable clarification of some things on which I'm shamefully hazy. I have a few objections to note, which might be of some interest to others who've seen the sheet: Davis makes a positive distinction between radiations and particles. My impression is that, at least as of the time of Eddington's Gifford lectures, neither is what we think of by analogy with grains of sand and ripples on water, and a sharp distinction between them as though they were different genres is fallacious. Eddington specifically mentioned the photon, which Davis classifies as a radiation. " The identification of neutrons as a separate species of particle is in accord with modern usage, I guess, but Ashley once said that a neutron is actually a proton and electron combined, and the description of the neutron's characteristics fits this. The final proof would be to split a neutron and see the positive and negative charges become detectable, I guess. " I take exception to the statement that the atoms of imprisoned gas, by exerting pressure on a balloon bag, do work. Surely this is a careless error by Davis. The work comes from the potential energy of atoms of air outside the bag, which fall to take its place as it moves upward. Or am I wrong? " The statement at 48 that inertia is opposition to change of motion seems rankly Newtonian. Perhaps this observation is not worth making.

On to Ember 20: ... You should have used a lot more discretion about editing out parts of my letter which you published. Unless you're ready to turn Ember into a general discussion mag of the magnitude of Vom, my amateurish remarks on Work and Power should not have been published, for instance. " ... Fraid I can't sympathize with Doyle Junior's indignation at the Soviets' ignoring the "legal and absurdly moral necessity of paying royalties" on his father's work. There may be a legal obligation, but I don't think a man has a moral claim on the proceeds of another's labor merely because the other is his father. ...

Now we get around to the latest Ember. " ... I haven't the formulas nor mathematical ability to solve to Norm's problem, but commonsense suggests that the kinetic energy is expended in a vicious kick of the hoop against the molecules of the plane as the neutronium comes to rest. The plane's molecules then dissipate it in heat.

... while you seem to have left off most of your Fortean reporting, you might run the following in the Department of Missing Persons. It comes from an Angeleno's letter received today:

"Tuesday (I think) Al Ashley walked out of the house. Somebody (probably Wiedenbeck) shouted after him 'Where you going, Al?' And he answered, over his shoulder 'Battle Creek', hopped in his car and took off. Since he has not returned, it is probable he went to BC. He took no luggage or anything. Virgil says he looked like he was going down to the corner drug-store for a pack of cigarettes. Due back 1 Dec, so the saying goes. This is odd of Al."

That, I submit, is a classic of understatement.

MADOLE SAGA

Madole has a correction to make on the material about the Animist Party in Kopy:

I have read your critique of Animist social philosophy and see no reason why we should not remain friends. Criticism gains as much publicity as praise indeed the psychological actions of a mass imbued with criticism is sometimes more helpful to the object attacked.

The news sheet to work in cooperation is not "Fantasy Advertiser" but "Faneus" of Walt Dunkelberger. It would be appreciated if this one statement was corrected in your news sheet.

Also I freely admit that Animism doesn't support Lockean parliamentary democracy. Our philosophy is based on universal law wherein all objects are results of the interaction of matter and energy. Energy indeed is the creator and destroyer of the worlds and gigantic suns whirling along their courses in stellar space. Suns are great masses of concentrated energy which manifest themselves in relation to the law "Energy can neither be created nor destroyed but it may be transformed." Thus we gain light and heat for organic evolution on Earth.

The free cosmic energy of space in collective quantity is that being known to man as God. The universe as manifested in the actions of creative energy is a vast machine operated by intelligence. The Bible refers to the universe as the creation of God and upon viewing energy as God in collective form and intelligence we see the truth of this statement.

Your body is matter motivated by energy as manifest in creative mind power. In short your body is a machine designed for the processes of locomotion, creative work and procreation and ruled as well as guided by a portion of the collective form of energy known as God. In contrast to the pure intellectual desires of the mind are the lusts of the body. This corresponds to the eternal struggle between God's the power of energy in the mind and Satan as seen in bodily lust.

The rules of cyclic evolution hold true in regards to that portion of your mind which is eternal. At death, your mind becomes part of the Cosmic whole.

Since all portions of the universe are part of the collective God and operate as a single gigantic machine so to must it be with the social unit; "Let it be on Earth as it is in Heaven". The perfect state is the machine state in which each citizen is perfectly psychologically balanced and fitted for his position in the organic whole. The Animist State is the collective will of the organic social unit.

The Superman will one day dominate the Earth; in accordance with the laws of Nature all who oppose him will be crushed beneath his might and right. All men are part of God in that our minds are part of the collective essence or energy. Homo Superior is the mentally balanced product of the machine, Animist, State. You may print this as an answer to your statements, if possible. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Very Sincerely Yours,
James H. Madole

P.S. What is Don Roger's address?

Subscription on ruled paper copies this postmarked Feb 10, San Francisco 10:

Dear Mr Spears

I am an animist. I hope you will forgive my utter inability to deduce any sort of conclusion in sociality. That ability is of course reserved for writers & editors, satirical of course.

Try as you may you will never find a philosophy and system broad enough to cover all the attributes of mankind other than Animism.

With the inhumane chaotic condition of the world I think I would at least give moral support to anyone who is interested in its welfare. But of course your edi-

torial ability to criticize and lambast must be pacified first.

I thought that other SF fans were liberal

Anonymous

P.S. I don't have time to waste on a few individuals.

ED: Some reply may be in order to the suggestion that good will is such a sorely needed commodity that we should support men of good will even if they're in a movement we don't agree with. My answer is that if the beliefs of the movement reject modest reforms, use of existing machinery, work among individuals, compromise solutions... as mere palliatives prolonging the agony of a dying order, so that the movement draws into itself men of good will and withdraws them from useful endeavors, the sooner such movement is discredited the better.

Ray wrote this in reply to something I wrote after my trip a year ago; I've been mislaying or forgetting it. I'd looked for poor whites.

Yes, there is rather a rarity of slums in the South. That was what I was trying to emphasize the last time the chain came round my way. I feel no provincial loyalty to the South, and I do not attempt to defend it because I have a sentimental attachment; it is merely that I am closer to the situation than Mrs. Doris Currier, for instance, and I have firsthand information that she and others on the chain lack.

Bill Evans refers to the Jan Magt comments on Clayton:

I am giving authors names in full, except in cases like J. W. Campbell, where it occurs so often. The early appearances will be in full, the later not. I'm trying to give them as in the magazine table of contents, -but am abbreviating middle names of some of the more prolific writers. E. E. Smith, not Edward Elmer. I believe that the author index is the place for full names. The artist index I sent you some time ago - months in fact, but apparently you mislaid it. It is part of the master list. For the AstClayton they are. GOU-gould; WES-Wesso; KLI-Klinger; SAB-Sabo; PAU-Paul MCH-Marchioni; Also, the names of authors will be given in full in the revised issue, since I've so instructed Peterson. After all, the names are in the index. As for pseudonyms, that I'm leaving up to you. When a person is scanning the lists for names he is familiar, he looks for Murray Leinster, not Will F. Jenkins. Series is one hell of a headache. I'm not trying to do anything with them, since the damn things run over around and thru so many magazines. ...

ED: Won't someone please publish an updated key to pennames? And would somebody else be so ambitious as to go thru his personal card file and dig out the sequels and series to send us in manuscript form?

Kennedy is roy:

Possies to your proposed FAPA constitution. No comment, other than that I like the Nov-Feb-May-Aug dates suggested. O yeah: I yam sprised that your proposed constitution for NFFF is briefer than the FAPA un. Theoretically, NFFF is a more complicated organization, with more functions than FAPA, which has only one main job--or should have!--the regular posting of mailings. Re officers, the viceprexy seems like a superfluous ... man. President oughta be able to handle constitutional interpretation easily enuf, if that's the only function of the v-p. I fail to see why an officer shouldn't be allowed to serve in a certain office more than once in 5 yrs. If the only purpose of this regulation is to discourage potential dictators, 'twould be simpler to rule that officers can't succeed themselves in the same office, and would enable guys who did good jobs in their positions to take another crack at it.

... it is possible to ... the members and following officers of such responsibility, without hamstringing the club. ... your suggested abolition of the v-p would leave the president interfering his own powers. Archaic notion of checks and balances, but it's somewhat proved useful in the company.

A. Langley Scarles:

Moppy #20. You say (page one, paragraph three up) that you have never heard of a postmailing being done to save money. Well, posting FC #11 was done for that very reason. It actually did cost less. Those eighth zone parcel post rates are stiff, brother! It cost me less money to distribute via 3rd class. I shouldn't cite this as the only reason, perhaps: I didn't know just when the official mailing would actually get into the P.O., ... Same page, last sentence. I don't see how you can maintain that "A separation between the two had not been suggested before" when this, judging by members' remarks, was the chief reason why the proposed amendment to require an adult treasurer that was bonded failed to meet with favor.

Sus-Pro ... I consider your remarks about "typical" "FC gobbledeygook" utterly mendacious. Euphuism is a recognized figure of speech, which, used sparingly, can add just as much to prose as can the more commonly employed simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, etc. ... But there is nothing wrong about long sentences or complex thoughts in themselves. If the reader is looking for the particular information I happen to be writing about, and has a modicum of intelligence and practice at reading print, he has no trouble. ...

You hit the nail on the head squarely when you remarked about me that I was distressed at that type of fan writing which, "while enjoyable to the seasoned fandomite" creates a bad impression on outsiders. I still do. And I see no reason why smart-Aleckism and puerile vapourings such as have all too often made fandom as whole seem like a censored group should be permitted to continue by the more sober factions, who could probably end it easily if they wished, but who instead either tolerate it in silence or even go so far as to pay such practices lip-service in their own writings.

EE: President Holland, were you hunting for some pseudo?

Comes now Kennedy (yes, again):

I'm a bit puzzled by the significance of the cover design. Could be man's great-great-grandpop thrice removed in the process of crawling out of the primordial slime and onto dry land. Or possibly a merfan swimming the Delaware en route to Philly. The blurb accompanying the pic would suggest the latter. # MAN SAGT proved of interest, especially the Burbee letter -- the why print stuff like this from obviously rather privately-slanted correspondence? I'd like to make a deal with somebody in LA. Will swap all the lowest gossip of the east coast for all the dirt of the LASFS. Any takers? # File on the green carbon paper. It's well nigh illegible. # Re the interlineation on page 14, have you seen the full-color rocket-ship poster now hanging in front of most post offices? It's really a beauty. Looks like a Paul job. It's an army recruiting sign, blurbed "THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY". # As for USBANDRY, Caxton is to be congratulated on the legibility of his new type faces. In fact if he keeps up his promising work, the lad may make quite a mark for himself in the printing game. # The bacover provided many

EE: Modesty bid: no stop there. "The cover pic was supposed to look at first glance like a water-succesin swimming in a fern-bordered pool, but the perspective of the mountains in the background was intended to indicate that the ferns

were about 1000 and the poster was printed in a quantity of 1000. There's never any reason to be any connection between the cover drawing and the poster itself. I'd like to have them a bit too just as they are. I'd like to have them with curves before printing. That it contained considerable amount of interest to PAPAs. Being color-blind, I'm a little disturbed by the green stuff. Nothing printed in it is worth anything anyway, he said, as though angling for a denial.

Bureau of Naval Personnel:

In accordance with your request, there is being mailed to you, under separate cover, three copies of "The Sky Was The Limit" poster.

This poster was conceived, and the art work done, by Lieut. Rex L. Reichert, USNR, Art Director of the Navy Recruiting Bureau at Baldwin, L.I., N.Y.

The actual production - that is, printing - also was done by the Navy's plant at Baldwin.

Recruiting Publicity Bureau, Governors Island:

The poster referred to in your letter, "The World of Tomorrow Today," was designed and executed by T/4 Ted Gotthelf, an artist assigned to this Bureau.

Sergeant Gotthelf developed this idea from the recent scientific experiments with the V-2 Rocket by the United States Army. The execution of the poster was rendered in air-brush and dry brush technique.

Sergeant Gotthelf, before entering the service, was a graphic artist in the industrial and pharmaceutical fields. He has also designed several pamphlets and brochures for the Army while at this Bureau.

Miss Davis:

Some little items of information, disturbing in nature, which I'm passing on to most of my correspondents & may try to get someone to publish: (1) At Bikini, some small fish came in from outside the lagoon after one of the tests, ate the crustaceans on the bottoms of the hulls of the target ships, & left. They died. Barracuda came in & ate the small fish. They died too. (2) The doctor who reported this (one of the top medical observers at the tests) offers the opinion that, in the event of a good-sized atomic war (with present weapons) in both hemispheres, there would be no place on the planet where residual radioactivity would not be strong enough to kill everybody-- with the exception probably of Antarctica & possibly of some areas on the equator. (3) Atomic bombs are in principle buildable which would be so powerful that one of them could divest the Earth of 2% of its atmosphere by simply giving it escape velocity & blowing it off into space.

Yes, Mr Luce & Mr Burnham, let's start taking over the world. Let's start a war. We don't want to live anyway, do we?

"It is hard, to be hanged for stealing a sheep."

If anybody in the audience would like to get a good grounding in systematic philosophy, I highly recommend the College Outline Series introduction to the subject. This little paperbound book, which costs a dollar, takes up most of the outstanding problems and presents the arguments compactly but clearly. And I would suggest that you start in with parts 2 and 3.

"You are not being hanged for stealing a sheep, but that sheep shall not be stolen."

PRAGMATIC BASIS FOR SUPERIORITY OF SCIENCE-FICTION TO PURE FANTASY

If s-f is only entertainment fiction, how can it hold its own against the competition of pure fantasy? Surely the latter is freer to call upon all the devices which will please the reader or provide him with escape, than s-f with its limitation to the possible. Both have the advantage over mundane fiction, that the reader need not imagine himself to be someone else, Nick Carter, Wild Bill Hickok, or Sergeant York: in most fantasy stories he need only imagine that he is in the place of the protagonist, with the greater resources of an advanced environment, or with the magic charm mislaid inside himself. The only advantage of s-f over pure-fantasy by the entertainment criterion seems to be (disregarding any readers who can swallow s-f but think pure fantasy too imaginative) in cases where it may be imagined that even yet such things as described may happen to the reader, which is impossible by definition in pure fantasy.

But judging fantasy fiction on an intellectual basis, as demonstrations of ideas, there is no comparison between the two branches. Observation will show that few pure fantasies have dealt with sociological or philosophical problems (an occasional instance of the philosophical problem, as in *The Undesired Princess*, is usually limited to showing the logical inconsistencies of a theory already discredited by scholars), certainly not in measure approaching s-f of the same years.

Leaving that for a moment, consider the type of hypothesis which the President in press conference used to dismiss as "an 'iffy' question." Currently one might say, "If the United States would just stop its belligerent conduct and make some genuinely friendly overtures to Russia, couldn't peace be secured?" Can you argue about that? Not wisely, without defining a multitude of subsidiary conditions. How is this phenomenon supposed to have come about? Are we to imagine the chambers of commerce, the Catholic church, the kept press, and other anti-Russian forces have stopped their pressures? Very well, we can imagine that; but to answer the question intelligently, we find we must ask further how this forbearance on their part came about. Was it a reasoned change of mind, an access of the Holy Spirit filling them with charity, a masterfully made movie about atomic war which scared the pants off everybody, or what? Our answer to the principal question might go one way or the other according as one or another of these trains of events led up to the friendly overtures: for knowledge of the precedent events would influence the Kremlin as to whether to change a long-range policy which assumes that war will come.

In considering the possible effects of a present decision such as the foregoing, or of a different possible (?) occurrence in the past ("If Lincoln had not been assassinated"), not even perfect wisdom could forecast the results without following out many lines of "cause and effect" in detail--whether Lincoln could have co-operated with the radical Republicans, whether he could have gotten his orders executed by the Union armies of occupation, what he might have done about the carpetbaggers, and so on. Considering any such question involves something very much like some of the branches of sciencefiction--tales of alternate time-lines, or of the future.

It is otherwise with pure fantasy. Omniscience itself could not predict the results of a real Gabriel over the White House, because this represents an interruption, a cutting of the predictable chains of "cause and effect", and the subsequent conditions of these chains cannot be inferred from the principal assumption. Nor can pure fantasy be used to reduce live philosophical problems to the factual level on which they can be settled. You can't simplify the problem of truth by postulating a god in a garden who makes everything his owners says be the truth, because the spoken words (nor, probably, the thoughts behind) do not define a single exact order of things. On the other hand, you can advance toward a solution of the problem with a scientificfictional device, a gas which inhibits falsehood.

We will leave till another day consideration of the pragmatic role of extrapolations of scientific principles.

QUOTES GRATIA ARTIS

Book 2 of Spenser opens:

Regard the flowers at eventide as, one after the other, they close in the setting sun. Strange is the feeling that then presses in upon you--a feeling of enigmatic fear in the presence of this blind dreamlike earth-bound existence. The dumb forest, the silent meadows, this bush, that twig, do not stir themselves, it is the wind that plays with them. Only the little gnat is free--he dances still in the evening light, he moves whither he will.

A plant is nothing on its own account. It forms a part of the landscape in which a chance made it take root. The twilight, the chill, the closing of every flower--these are not cause and effect, not danger and willed answer to danger. They are a single process of nature, which is accomplishing itself near, with, and in the plant. The individual is not free to look out for itself, will for itself, or choose for itself.

An animal, on the contrary, can choose. It is emancipated from the servitude of all the rest of the world. This midget swarm that dances on and on, that solitary bird still flying through the evening, the fox approaching furtively the nest--these are little worlds of their own within another great world. An animalcule in a drop of water, too tiny to be perceived by the human eye, though it lasts but a second and has but a corner of this drop as its field--nevertheless is free and independent in the face of the universe. The giant oak, upon one of whose leaves the droplet hangs, is not.

Servitude and freedom--this is in last and deepest analysis the difference by which we distinguish vegetable and animal existence. Yet only the plant is wholly and entirely what it is; in the being of the animal there is something dual. A vegetable is only a vegetable; an animal is a vegetable and something more besides. A herd that huddles together trembling in the presence of danger, a child that clings weeping to its mother, a man desperately striving to force a way into his God--all these are seeking to return out of the life of freedom into the vegetal servitude from which they were emancipated into individuality and loneliness.

Walt Whitman:

Aroot and light-hearted, I take the open road: healthy, free, the world before me.

Henceforth, I ask not good fortune - I myself am good fortune; strong and content, I travel the open road.

Whoever you are, come travel with me! However sweet these laid-up stores - however convenient this dwelling, we cannot remain here.

Come travel with me! After the great companions! They too are on the road!

Come travel with me! To undergo much, tramps of days, rests of nights; To look up and down no road but stretches and waits for you, To see nothing anywhere but what you may reach it and pass it. To know the universe itself as a road - as many roads - as roads for traveling souls.

John Burroughs:

Nature knows no economy. Nature's ways are not our ways. The rivers drain the hills and mountains and never run dry. She trusts her seeds to every wind that blows, and to the foot of every bird, and in time her marsh gets planted.... But behold how she has endowed man to improve upon all her methods. Man sees where nature is blind; he takes a short-cut where she goes far around. She enables him to cheat, and mislead, and circumvent her. He steals her secrets, he forces her hand. He turns her rivers, he levels her hills, he measures her atoms, he reads her history in the rocks and the heavens. In man nature has added reason to her impulse, conscience to her blind forces, self-denial to her self-indulgence, the power of choice to her iron necessity.

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

Beautiful example of headlines reminiscent of the New Mexico attempt to legislate pi down to 3: "U.N. MOVES TO PROHIBIT ATOM".

While i was over in the Hanford country last September i dropped into Richland, where the atomic workers live, and got a number of photo postcards of the govt-built houses and towns they live in, but the most fantastic thing in them is the Richland theater with The Picture of Dorian Gray showing.

A Christmas advertisement of the Reynolds Rocket reads like a rollicall of recent steps into the future. It appears that the ball pen is available in Cosmic Gold, Chute Silver, Stratosphere Blue, Atomic Red, Jet Black, and Radar Green. I could write an article on latter-day publicity breaks for stef, contrasted with the days when Orson Welles's broadcast was enuf to make Amazing publish a radio drama in a dither, and a Flash Gordon serial to be reissued altogether as Mars Attacks the World; and when Campbell accumulated Schachner yarns and ran them on the cover when a Schachner book hits the stalls.

Problem in a criminal law exam starts off: "After months of research, Louis Gray, a famous physicist, develops a radar ray which he believes will be a defence against the atomic bomb." The principal problem is whether the pilot who dropped a little A-bomb for him to test the beam on can be held for murder.

Report from the UW Daily on a skeptics' hour during Religious Emphasis Week. The report conveys no idea of how much trouble (from starting to pack it all into one sentence which wouldn't hold it, prefaced by "If a skeptic were to ask you--") the guy had expressing what is reported as "Knowing God to be all powerful, do you believe He could create a rock so large He couldn't lift it." The report goes on: "This stopped the trio for a few seconds. 'That runs into the field of speculation,' said Warner and dropped the question as 'irrelevant.' # Another student thought it was relevant since 'most religions are committed to the idea that God is all-powerful.' Warner said God works according to 'laws' and everything has to be for a purpose."

Clipping from a recent P-I says an organizational meeting of the Puget Sound branch of the United States Rocket Society would be held that evening in Tacoma. Persons interested in rockets, astronomy, chemistry, nuclear physics, and related fields, including interplanetary navigation, were invited to attend. I was otherwise engaged.

Clipping from the Young Scientist section of the Seattle Sunday Times magazine tells how to make a home hektograph. One package of gelatin dessert, a one-ounce package of clear gelatin, two ounces of water, and two ounces of glycerine are all that's needed.

Lichty of Grin and Bear It backs me up. A scientist speaking over the phone to a diver says, "No, no, professor!... I think Webster would say that you are being attacked by OCTOPUSES...not Octopi!..." A less conscientious cartoonist would probably have had it the other way around.

If i weren't trying to get away from merely listing souvenirs, i might mention this program from a current production of a 16.4 drama starring Maurice Evans.

This might be of interest to some who remember him: It's a recent order of worship from the Grace Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Washington, Thomas Slate pastor.

And as Lockman nor Hanna has ever reclaimed the SatEvePost with Heinlein and Jameson, and the Blue Book excerpt of The Enchanted Jeep, which they bailed to me, i guess i can stick them in the scrapbook. Three years from now, when i get around to it.

"The first Dewey half-dollars were minted in 1952."

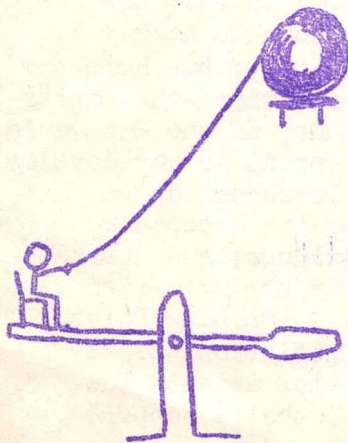
I might add that at the second skeptics' hour, which i was unable to attend, some impious attender of the first session had written on the blackboard beforehand, "Let's leave God out of this."

LAST STOP TO LIMBO

A couple of notebook pages clipped together perhaps should not even be required to show their faces as they board the limbo boat. One has the name of Enrya Evans jotted down shorthandy; I believe he was one of the innocents of the first evening of the Pacificon, whose name I omitted from the Shaggy writeup because it was in this other place (Gad! this is boring!) And under that is a list of names, apparently of the poker players: Milty, Laney, Tucker, Wheeler, Daugherty, and Bloch. Also something like "vender" which is doubtless a misreading. On the other slip of paper is "PLAY". I have no idea what inspiration this was supposed to record.

First draft of the beginning of a fan fiction story, in which Philip Latham hides while Eisner tells a cop to go get a warrant, pointing to a Bill of Rights plaque, and the copper glowers and says the Corps ought to check up on people that hang up those plaques. "Most law-abiding citizens are satisfied to leave the constitution where it is and not hang it on the wall." It seems that when the success of the UNO in establishing a world government removed the threat of war which had kept hostile nations competing with each other in scientific lines, the antiscientific sentiment in man (egged on by, among others, the Hearst papers smarting from their defeat by internationalism) passed the Smith bill which outlawed all research, pure or applied. The J, it is mentioned in passing, got himself hired by the LA Examiner and plans to blow it up when the strategic time comes. The inspiration for the story was the thought that if America should ever undergo an oppressive dictatorship, fandom is well suited for becoming an underground railroad and communication system. We are sufficiently scattered in age, occupation, as not to be caught in an outlawing of a particular political party, religious group, etc. Our customs of hospitality and confidence would fit us for hiding refugees. And our special vocabulary, particularly the copious nicknames, would provide an easy method for confidential communication among ourselves. Moreover, the names of wellknown stories, could be split up to use as sign and countersign without prearrangement. Fairly interesting background material, I think, but I couldn't make up a plot to hang the story on after I got started, and not being Heinlein I can't write a story without a plot.

yourethmostperfect.creatureivevermetsaidheckpassionatelyimeannmostnearlyperfect.



THE FIFTH CONVENTION CATAPULT

KEEPING UP WITH CAMPBELL

1947 leads off with Tomorrow and Tomorrow 41.8/36.61 (68.), which has a neat stinger in its end even if, unavoidably, that involves expressing some of Kuttner's opinions about the best direction for presentday policy with which there may be honest disagreement. " I enjoyed the humor inserted in the series of headlines from Omega's history--apparently Kuttner thinks that as long as civilization lasts, rupture ads will be with us. " Couple of pages later, Kuttner expresses outrage that Congress refused to grant a million-dollar fund for cancer research, "After what Congress had already spent!" I think if we accept for the time being the impracticality of trying to get the Government to undertake all the things that should and could be undertaken, we have no right to be specially outraged at a particular instance of things undone. " The mention of Now-lines on page 164 (2d installment, that is) suggests Eddington's Gifford lectures, which suggest relativity, which suggests that point-point parallel dates in the different time-lines might be difficult to establish; but all that merely suggests the implausibility of 68.s anyhow.... Housing Shortage 60./32.3 was rather obvious, but at the same time improbable because of the unconscious restraint the tenants had to practice to avoid fouling things up.... Time to Die 65.: All this business about mental power to conquer time seems rather primitive, Berkeleyan if not solipsistic.... Bad Patch 63./34.2-/34.3 presents a problem in classification, as do all these Chandler fantasies. I can't say I was enthralled by this story.

February: I've already made to Campbell my main comment on Maturity 34.41. " Wonder how much the guys at the next convention will bid for the illustration for page 15. " I must say that the superman showed little imagination for discovering real challenges to his ability. Why didn't he take upon himself the problem of establishing a just economic order, instead of playing chess with the malefactors of great wealth? Or couldn't he tackle a few difficult scientific problems?--it seems unlikely that everything in that line should be easily within his power.... Eye to the Future 63. would not have been out of place in Fantastic Adventures.... Pete Can Fix It 65. satisfied. Are the Urban illustrations examples of new techniques made possible by slicker paper? Here and elsewhere in the issue they don't make much impression on my null-artistic soul.... The Answer 41.-36.61 is just a trick story.... When we can get articles like Atomic Power Plant 81.35 in Astounding, why should we buy The Atomic Story? There is a slightly puzzling misprint on p 103: "U-238" where apparently "U-235" is intended.

Cover for March would have been more pleasing without the figures so prominent in the foreground, and the vulgarly story-telling sign.... A criticism I have noted on the first page of The Equalizer 41.1/36.61 is that the introduction is too scattered. I know it's a practice with authors to hook you, and then scatter the explanation thru the first scene of the story; but here the flashes of action are too brief to carry the load of the explanation--the latter were better presented separately, frankly as such. " I wonder if the Pat Davis who illustrated this could be our North Carolina lady. Whoever it is may develop, but these first attempts look rather crude.... There was a freshness about Tomorrow's Children 42.K/34.4; I suppose partly it was the candid acceptance of the dominating position of the military in a national breakdown; and doubtless I liked the authors' picking a place near Fanburg, Oregon, for the last citadel of civilization. " I wonder if the genetics are correct.... Turning Point 42.1 steals a few ideas from my forthcoming article in Scientifictionist. I don't altogether like the fatalism with which the last scientist accepts the unreadiness of the people for a renaissance. In spite of all that's happened, the spirit of Asimov's "Trends" is more to my liking. " I wonder if the occurrence of three atomic-catastrophe stories one right after tother may not hurt Astounding with too much misionarying.... One of the things that I found implausible about Child's Play 65.-37.2 was the persistence of people of the

22d century in using unchanged our archaic system of spelling. A more serious defect in the glimpsed picture of the future age was that whereas all indications were that its inhabitants were more sensitive than people of the 20th century, their servant took the unstable Sam Weber to be the genuine article. The greatest implausibility, however, lay in the intimations of the method of duplication. Tenn was vague about this; nevertheless it is obvious from the negligent defects in the duplicated baby, and the forms in which data was recorded by the biocalibrator, that Tenn supposed it to be done by gross manual handling of the material. As anyone with an ounce of biological knowledge knows, it would be a lifetime job, requiring the utmost skill, to fashion the body of any mammal by such means. What is needed is a mechanical method of translating the mechanically recorded data into the form of the finished product. " In spite of all these objections, it was inevitable that the story of a struggling young lawyer suddenly given the means of extending himself so that he might cover many fields of life, should lead to a bit of wishful thinking. What would you do with a Bild-a-Man set?

April 1947 Astounding: Home of the Gods 44.2 is definitely the poorest of the Clane series. The resolution of the plot amounts simply to pulling a rabbit out of the hat from which vV might have been expected to pull anything that suited him. The only interest in the whole story is the character study of Lord Adviser Tews.... Before I forget--are W.F.T. Timmins's initials? These letters on the spaceship fin seem to be the only place on the cover where he might have signed his name.... Can't say much for the illustrations on Time and Time Again 65., and the scientific foundation for the story is insupportable by my lights--I say fout and fout to Dunne, whom I've never read. But I enjoyed the development of the story idea; it takes up almost where Mr Craddock's Life-Line left off, not to mention The First Fan.... Psych'e War 34.1K: I don't think Hopkinson did a very good job of showing the horror latent in military application of hypnosis; the fate of a lost hyppo does not move us greatly. But consider: Hypnosis, if perfected to the extent indicated here, could make almost anyone more efficient at given tasks. Wouldn't there be a temptation to make its use quite general, at least in the living-earning part of a man's life? And adapt it for entertainment? Eventually we might have the situation which I think presents a crucial problem to utilitarianism: A race able to keep alive indefinitely, and spending the life sitting around being happy because of something going on in its head. Not only would adaptability have been sacrificed for efficiency in rigid lines, to the detriment of survival value, but the destiny of the race as we hope for it would have been lost.... Focey to Project 34.41. Like Van Vogt at his worst, it drags in a super-super element which takes charge of everything at the end. Sure, the setting up of a phoney menace to draw Home sapiens and H superior (disguised) together would make everything lovely. But it's about as probable as waving a magic wand and making everything lovely right away.... Sorry, Harry, I don't think Answer 36.11-44.8 is at all scumd. Thruout, it confuses the thing-in-itself with the thing-as-known. By a bit of Aristotelian legerdemain it tells us that a brain's complete understanding of a thought of its own would have to be identical with the brain. Perhaps I can make my objection clear by an oblique cavil: One of your characters says that a machine to repair itself would have to have a complete set of templates, including templates of the templates, like the Quaker Oats concept. But actually all that is necessary is two sets of templates (we assume that only one thing will go wrong with the machine at a time), and a duplicator mechanism. I don't know whether this is to the point or not; anybody wants clinch wif me on it?... An Enemy of Knowledge 42.1 is a considerable story. I can't sympathize very much with its hero, but Lex has thrown in a lot of good stuff. " I felt uncomfortable on one score all thru the novel: Lex didn't sufficiently indicate where it took place, so it

Montana, not Texas. And having a geographical mind, I feel like I just gotta know where it is on the map. (This would keep me from enjoying the current Mandrake the Magician even if that strip hadn't long ago degenerated; and I probably couldn't like the Graustark novels.) Phillips has used the word "desert" misleadingly early in the story, of a country which, it later develops, could have been no worse than semiarid. " Bernbach's illustrations are not bad, but rather inaccurate. He puts panes in the library window; and he has the lead couple pulling an old auto when the story plainly puts them in front of a cart. This business of two human beings pulling an automobile over rough country seems awfully hard to swallow, anyway; and even if they could, I should think the least rudiments of mechanical sense would have the cars taken apart and some of the skeletons used to build efficient carts. " The dialect wasn't always satisfactory. If a dialect is to be used all thru a story, I think it should be played down, and there are entirely too many apostrophes in the present instance. The indication of a contraction in such words as "goin'" is a fallacy anyway, and I think William Faulkner or some contemporary author habitually spells them "goen", etc. This is historically more correct, since such pronunciations come down direct from a time when Saxons used -ende (doubtless reduced to -en in the Middle English period). The termination -ing for participles originated in confusion with the -ung of gerunds et al, still seen in German, as Warnung. Except in the most formal speech, the spelling-pronunciation "go-ing" has made little headway in spoken English, even among the educated. Similar remarks might be made about many other supercilious spellings of dialect. Respect for the sound foundation of unlettered pronunciation would have the incidental advantage of leading to more accurate representation of it.

Cover for May is a beaut... Diminishing Crescendo 81.35: Well, when you add complete conversion of particles into energy to the binding energy, do you get mc^2 , or is the binding energy alone mc^2 ?... It's early to be expressing an opinion on Fury 44.2-41.9, but I have a cavil or two about this first part. Seems to me that Kuttner has unfairly misled us by indicating at numerous places that Harker was to die in the fortieth year of his age; and that the operation performed upon him shortly after birth robbed him of his potential immortality. " It seems to me, too, that Heinlein has described the reactions of Homo ephemeralis to immortals in their midst more probably than Kuttner has; even given a decadent civilization like that of the Keeps, there should be more active resentment of the hereditary advantage. " Off at a tangent, but does anyone know a definition of "born" that would justify the three witches in saying, indirectly, that Macduff was not of woman born?... In Tiny and the Monster 44.3, Sturgeon shows considerable ability at creating interesting characters and witty conversation; yet I feel that he is far from mastering the craft of fiction. The passage, "When they had their breath back--yes, Mrs. Forsythe joined in, for Alistair's statement was indeed true--" reminds me of a little old local lady for whom I typed parts of a novel manuscript, for writing which her training had been articles and stories for a children's magazine. Also, I think Sturgeon tries to pack too much explanation into the letter with which the story ends. I find it hard to picture the mother writing her daughter who is thoroughly familiar with events, "... getting Alec to put up the money, even though he would have to clean out his savings and mortgage his estate,..."... Jesting Pilot 41.5/34.1: Kuttner does tack neat denouements onto his stories, doesn't he?... Pseudoscience in Naziland 15.A doesn't justify Campbell's forecast that it showed the Germans achieved some scientific marvels by the shotgun technique. I think all it indicates is that since there are 2/3 as many Germans as there are Americans, they are entitled to 2/3 as much crackpottism, and if this occasionally occurs in high places, that's no cause for surprise. I can't help wondering if the publication of Ley's article was in part motivated by a desire to reflect on some American crackpottism current in a Chicago publication.... (Back to the ifcover, boys.)

RECORDS



GADZOOKS. IT'S HIGH TIME I WAS BATTING OUT THAT COLUMN FOR JOKE.

TELEPHONE FOR YOU, JOE.



RUSTY? WHEN DID YOU GET IN? SURE, COME ON UP.

GAB GAB GAB



I SAW THAT STORY NOT LONG AGO IN MY COLLECTION. I'LL LOOK IT UP IN THE MORNING AND WRITE YOU WHAT ISSUE IT'S IN.



AFTER I GET THIS STORY LOOKED UP, I'M GONNA INDEX MY COLLECTION SO I CAN FIND THINGS IN IT.



HERE'S SOME MAIL FOR YOU, MR CRUFANAC.



ZOUNDS, WHAT'RE THEY TRYING TO PULL ON US? THIS CALLS FOR A MIMEOGRAPHED BROADSIDE. BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET SOME STENCILS.

A B DICK CORPORATION

BOOKS

MAGAZINES

Comin and here

OD'S BODKINS! A NEW PROZINE!

I WONDER IF THIS BOOK IS WORTH THE SIX BITS THEY ASK FOR IT.

RELIGION

SEX-HEALTH

SCIENCE

IF YOU DON'T SEE WHAT YOU WANT - ASK FOR IT

WELL, THEY TOOK ME FOR FOUR DOLLARS, BUT THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF HERE I'VE BEEN WANTING TO READ.

ARE YOU JOE CRUFANAC? I HAVE A TELEGRAM HERE FOR YOU.



UNION
EJOKE
YOU SNAKE. WHERE'S THAT COLUMN YOU PROMISED
EJOKE